

Office of the City Attorney

300 West Third Street, Suite 300
Oxnard, California 93030
(805) 385-7483
Fax (805) 385-7423



August 1, 2013

Chief Arthur L. Lopez, OPD Ret.



RE: Request for Repayment of Supplemental Post-Retirement Benefit

Dear Chief Lopez:

The City Council has directed me to contact you regarding the Supplemental Post-Retirement Benefit (SPRB) the City of Oxnard disbursed to you from 2005 to 2012 in the amount of \$25,500. As you know, the \$300 per month SPRB was a focus of the 2010 investigation by the Ventura County District Attorney's Office of allegations of corruption involving several elected and non-elected City officials. On April 18, 2012, the District Attorney's Office released its final *Report on the Public Integrity Investigation of Oxnard City Officials* (the Report). In the aftermath of the investigation, City officials have worked to regain the trust of Oxnard's residents by addressing the practices found to be improper in the Report.

The Report concluded the SPRB was created in 2003 by then-City Manager Edmund Sotelo without the formal City Council approval required by California Government Code section 36506. Because Mr. Sotelo acted outside his authority in implementing the SPRB policy without formal City Council approval, any agreement between you and the City regarding the SPRB was invalid. On May 8, 2012, the City Council terminated the SPRB.

At this time, the City Council asks for your assistance in putting past improper practices behind us and restoring the public's trust and confidence in City government by repaying the SPRB you received. This request is in no way intended to diminish the significant contributions you made to the City of Oxnard during your career. Rather, it is one of several steps the City is taking in the healing process. Please contact me at (805) 385-7483 if you have any questions regarding this request or would like to discuss a repayment schedule.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stephen M. Fischer".

Stephen M. Fischer
Acting City Attorney

cc: City Council
Karen Burnham, Interim City Manager